

Couper Bank Barn (Lester Barn)
Road 381, .25 miles west of
U.S. Route 13
Tybouts Corner Vicinity
New Castle County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-217

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PHOTOGRAPHS
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Delaware	COUNTY New Castle County	TOWN OR VICINITY Tybouts Corner Vicinity
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Couper Bank Barn (1868 D.G.Beers, Atlas for the State of Delaware)		HABS NO. DE-217
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Lester Barn		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Road 381, .25 miles west of U.S. Route 13		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) ca. 1850 (construction)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The Couper Barn is an unusually complete example of a functionally integrated bank barn of the type advocated by the writers and supporters of the mid 19th-century agricultural reform movement in the eastern United States. The framing is exceptional.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Braced frame using circular and vertical mill sawn timbers for walling and reused timbers for purlins.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) see measured drawings. Note the plan of the building is tripartite in both vertical and horizontal planes.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Vertical board siding, rubble limestone foundations (allegedly salvaged from the roadbed of the New Castle & Frenchtown Railroad). Bridge or ramp house framed with original corn cribs.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Corn cribs located in partitions created by king post trusses supporting bridge house. Granaries housed under entry ramp flanked by open two-story mows. Also mechanical threshing area located in forebay area. Animal shelter on ground (embanked) level.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Building unaltered except for the conversion of the animal area on the embanked level. This modernization corresponds to the hygienic ordinances adopted for the dairying industry in the mid 20th century.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Hay and equipment storage. Main body of barn sound, but the forebay area has begun to collapse.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Determination of Eligibility, Delaware Dept. Of Transportation for the Route 7 realignment project.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Bernard L. Herman		DATE 3-5-85